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Appl. No. : 09/846,229  
Applicant : Herbert R. Burnham  
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Sir:

In response to the Office Action of April 2, 2004 please amend the above-identified application as shown hereinbelow.

Application for one-month extension was mailed July 2, 2004.

#### DECLARATION

A new declaration is enclosed in this response.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 5-7 have been objected to because of informalities and rejected under USC 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph as being indefinite. All of these considerations were taken into account in order to propose a new set of claims 8-10.

Term "independent" of claim 5, now canceled, was not incorporated in new claim 8 in order to comply with the corresponding rejection. It should be noted, however, that "independent" was used in the sense that each pad fully integrates the functions and use of absorbing and containing without help or assistance of another similar pad, hence, it is self-reliant.

The objection to "closure means...pad" in claim 7 (now claim 10) as not defined in the specification is not entirely accurate. In the original description, page 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 13-14 disclose "...bag 111 may comprise integral closure means 113 to seal in pad 109." Therefore, "seal in" was retained while "and isolate" was deleted.